



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

NOVEMBER 4, 2004

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

NWA Meets in Portland, OR: The annual National Weather Association meeting was held in Portland, Oregon the week of October 18. General Johnson attended to present a look at NWS and the future and then visit the WFO and RFC. In addition, General J toured the Pacific Northwest Geographical Area Coordination Center and the Army Corps of Engineers. The NWA meeting was a success as was General Johnson's visit. I wish to thank Steve Todd and Mike Vescio for the great job with the planning and organization of the NWA meeting. Most of the work naturally falls to NWS offices in the area nearest the meeting location. I also wish to thank Harold Opitz and Steve Todd for taking care of our Director with office tours, an all-hands meeting, and visits to partners.

While the NWA meeting was in progress, California experienced "winter" type storms bringing heavy rains, flooding, mudslides, and more. Offices serving the state did an outstanding job in fulfilling our mission. Thanks!

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's Statement of the Week is the aviation section included in an Area Forecast Discussion (AFD) issued by WFO Seattle. The aviation section was written by forecaster Dana Felton. WFO Seattle has begun including an aviation section in the AFD to discuss important aviation weather factors affecting western Washington. Dana did a good job keeping the section short and concise, while including specific mention of lowering ceilings and visibilities from a cold frontal passage and the Puget Sound convergence zone. Dana also specifically mentioned Everett/Paine Field (KPAE) and Bellingham (KBFI) which are two western Washington airports most frequently filed as alternates for flights into SEA/TAC. Good job Dana!

AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
300 AM PST TUES NOV 2 2004

.AVIATION...A COLD FRONT OVER THE CENTRAL PUGET SOUND THIS MORNING WILL SAG SOUTH OF THE AREA BY LATE MORNING. LIFR CEILINGS WITH VISIBILITIES AS LOW AS A MILE IN HEAVY RAIN WILL BE COMMON ALONG AND JUST BEHIND THE FRONT. A PUGET SOUND CONVERGENCE ZONE WILL SET UP THIS AFTERNOON CONTINUING THE REDUCED VISIBILITIES AND LOW...MVFR/IFR CEILINGS...FROM KPAE TO NEAR KBFI THIS AFTERNOON. OUTSIDE OF THE CONVERGENCE ZONE VISIBILITIES AND CEILINGS WILL IMPROVE QUICKLY AS THE FRONT SAGS SOUTH INTO OREGON. FELTON



Western Region Holds Regional WCM Workshop:

NWS Western Region hosted a regional Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Workshop in Salt Lake City on October 18-22. WCMs throughout eight western states and Hawaii attended. The group addressed a wide range of topics, including current regional operational issues, public affairs, digital services, verification, and web page issues.

Additionally, the workshop devoted a significant amount of time to some very important non-operational topics. One afternoon was devoted to developing leadership qualities through group analysis of NASA's experience with Apollo 13 and a series of scenarios based on real or potential experiences in local forecast offices. Another block of time was used to provide basic marketing training to the WCMs. A homework assignment was distributed prior to the workshop, which involved analyzing local customer needs for digital weather data. The group then went through the analysis in detail, and later conducted a series of exercises to market imaginary products to demonstrate marketing concepts. The goal of this marketing training was to provide WCMs with tools to increase customer awareness of NWS products and services. Additionally, one morning was devoted to increasing familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), particularly relating to potential NWS applications.

Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Utah: WFO Salt Lake City, in partnership with several participating agencies, conducted a winter weather preparedness campaign during the week of October 11-15, 2004. Governor Olene S. Walker declared October 11-15 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Utah. WFO Grand Junction, Utah Department of Public Safety, Forest Service Utah Avalanche Center, Utah Department of Transportation, the four Utah chapters of the American Red Cross, Utah State Parks and Recreation, and the Utah State Board of Education all contributed to the campaign effort.

A Winter Weather Preparedness Week publication with articles on winter weather safety and general winter information was prepared for the week and posted on the WFO Salt Lake City and Utah Division of Emergency Services web sites. Daily press releases and statements were issued on newswires and broadcast on All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio throughout the week. The following topics were highlighted:

Monday: Winter Weather Preparedness Week Introduction (NWS)
Tuesday: Winter Travel Safety (Utah Department of Transportation)
Wednesday: Winter Weather Terms.....What to Listen For (NWS)
Thursday: Avalanche Safety (Utah State Parks and Recreation and Forecast Service Utah Avalanche Center)
Friday: Are you ready for a Winter Storm? (American Red Cross)

KUTV Channel 2 aired a series on the preparedness week, including interviews with WFO Salt Lake City and Utah Department of Transportation officials. In addition, radio

and print media participated in getting the word out. Emergency Management officials in the Salt Lake City area expressed an interest in being more involved with the 2005 Winter Weather Preparedness Week campaign.



Admiral Lautenbacher enters WFO Tucson. Also pictured from left to right, Glen Sampson, Tom Evans and Tim McClung, NOAA Program Coordination Office.

Admiral Lautenbacher Helps Commemorate NWR Achievement at WFO Tucson:

The new NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) in Nogales, Arizona achieves the NOAA goal of 95% population coverage for the state. To commemorate this achievement, a press conference was held on October 22, 2004 at the Tucson WFO. Admiral Lautenbacher spoke at this conference, congratulating Arizona on expanding the NWR coverage and encouraging people to use this service as an early warning system for themselves and their loved ones.

Admiral Lautenbacher also spoke about the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), incorporating the North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME). Additional presenters at the press conference were Tom Evans (Warning Coordination Meteorologist), discussing the importance of the All Hazards radio in Nogales, and Erik Pytlak (Science Operations Officer), presenting preliminary results from NAME and discussing how NAME ties into the GEOSS. Several days following this press briefing, Glen Sampson, MIC, and Tom Evans went to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meeting to dedicate the Nogales, Arizona NWR. The Board of Supervisors and county officials have been extremely supportive of this installation and its community outreach.



Intern Wendy Sellers shows a radiosonde unit to a customer at the San Francisco Disaster Fair

WFO Monterey Supports San Francisco Disaster Fair:

WFO Monterey supported the San Francisco Disaster Fair, part of "Fleet Week" activities in San Francisco.

Meteorologist Intern Wendy Sellers and Lead Forecaster Duane Dykema manned an information booth for two days, visiting with over 100 people. The Fair included participation from about 40 other public agencies (city, state, and federal).

Winter Weather Awareness Week in Montana: The week of October 4 - 8 was winter weather awareness week in Montana. The four Montana forecast offices combined to create a slew of awareness and educational presentations.

In Glasgow, mailings were sent to emergency managers and media. The week also coincided with two StormReady presentations that offered a platform through which to spread the word on weather safety.

The Billings office tested the EAS system in Sheridan County, Wyoming, and sounded sirens in Yellowstone County, Montana. Jim Scarlett conducted several live radio interviews and worked daily winter weather safety themes into radio and television newscasts.

Missoula coordinated Montana's winter weather awareness week with the Pacific Northwest winter weather awareness week posting PNSs and airing NOAA Weather Radio scripts. Peter Felsch conducted a FEMA interview and several local radio interviews.

In Great Falls, the operational staff was featured nightly on the CBS affiliate offering winter weather safety tips. Nine live radio interviews were conducted as well as a live call-in radio show on KSEN serving the northern border area of the County Warning Area.

The four Montana WCMs were featured guests on a statewide, call-in radio show, "Berg in the Morning," each discussing a pre-arranged topic relevant to a winter hazard in Montana.



Dan Keeton and Scott Birch discuss NWS Products and Services with pilots at the 2004 AOPA Expo

Aviation Program: Two national aviation conventions were held in Western Region during the last three weeks, and Western Region employees helped staff the NWS displays at both conventions.

The 57th Annual National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Convention was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 12-14. The NBAA Convention closed with a total of 31,259 attendees, and a record 1,084 Exhibiting Companies which occupied a million square feet of exhibit space in the Las Vegas Convention Center. In addition, 87 aircraft were on display at Henderson Executive Airport. Western Region Convention

attendees included Vickie Nadolski and Scott Birch from WRH; and MIC Kim Runk, WCM Andy Bailey, and Aviation focal point Jerome Jacques from WFO Las Vegas.

The 2004 Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Expo was held in Long Beach, California, October 21-23. The AOPA Expo provided pilots a wide range of activities from seminars to the 525 exhibitors. Western Region attendees included Oxnard WFO MIC Dan Keeton, San Diego WFO Aviation focal point Art Horton, and Scott Birch from WR MSD.



Monterey Holds Media Seminar

Dave Reynolds (Monterey MIC) briefs members of the media during their recent seminar



Flathead County, Montana Declared StormReady:

Pictured left to right: WCM Peter Felsch, MIC Bruce Bauck, Kalispell Mayor Pam Kennedy, Flathead County Commissioner Gary Hall of Columbia Falls, Whitefish Deputy Mayor, Doug Adams, Flathead County DES Coordinator Alan Marble



Glasgow Intern Mark Pellerito shows the kids a weather balloon.

Outreach to a Prairie School: NWS Glasgow Intern Mark Pellerito recently spent some time with one of the few remaining prairie schoolhouses in the country. The Van Norman school in Garfield County, Montana has four students, ranging in grades from Kindergarten through 6th grade. Mark brought several hands on scientific experiments for the kids, including a tornado chamber, static electricity, a cartesian diver, and solar power. He also gave a presentation on weather safety, that included video of various severe storms and flooding that had the kids asking for more. It is a bit of a challenge to make a presentation that works well for

the wide range of ages, but this is a daily ordeal for the school's teacher, Ms. Judy Miller.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

AWIPS Status: Monthly briefings have begun with the Regional Director. We discuss the present state of AWIPS in Western Region, address problems, and propose solutions in order to improve the performance and knowledge base of WR AWIPS systems and support. Offices may dial in and participate. An e-mail with the dial in instructions will be sent each month.

7 WR sites have installed OB4, with another six sites scheduled for November. All of Western Region will be at OB4 by 18 January.

Go to AWIPS web page for details on builds and other AWIPS news.

<http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/sod/elec/awips05.htm>

Dwight Williams is taking suggestions on how to improve the Western Region AWIPS program as well as suggestions for material on the Intranet web page.

Power Outage: Early fall snowstorms took down power lines to the Cedar City Doppler Radar Site leaving fuel supplies for the back up generator nearly empty. Dave Neilson (Electronics Technician, SLC) and Tom Page (Regional Facilities Engineering Technician) were able to refuel both tanks, often times being dragged by the snow cat in whiteout conditions. Their actions insured continuous 88D operations as it took Utah Power and Light technicians 10 days to repair poles and restore power.

Browns Field CA: Lee Jenson and Tom Page, both Regional Facilities Engineering Technicians, responded to the Browns Field CA ASOS to resolve an underground

power problem. With the use of a cable locator/fault isolator they were able to quickly identify the short and make the necessary repairs. The site was down for less than 24 hours.

ESA Conference: The 2004 ESA Conference was held October 26-28 at the El Dorado in Reno, NV. I would like to thank the Regional Director, ESAs, MICs, RMSs, RFCs, Steve Kusyj (LIFT), Pat Koss (San Diego), and all the speakers that participated. The conference covered procurement, EMRS, RMS Programs, and Facilities and also had a guest speaker to cover communications. Kim Runk (MIC, Las Vegas) gave a great presentation on team building. The agenda, all presentations, and action items are posted on the SOD Electronics web page.